

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nelson Shapiro on March 16, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, lines 12-13: the phrase "at an end portion of said male shaft or in the vicinity thereof" has been changed to --adjacent an end portion of said male shaft--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not teach or render obvious the claimed combination of a telescopic shaft used for steering of a vehicle comprising at least one set of spherical torque transmission members and at least one torque transmission roller with a cylindrical surface portion including a stopper plate for regulating movement and preloading the roller in accordance with claim 1.

There is no double patenting between the present application and application 10/527,804, as the claims the '804 application do not recite a torque transmission roller with a cylindrical surface portion or a stopper plate.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUSTIN KRAUSE whose telephone number is (571)272-3012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on 571-272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Justin Krause/

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Examiner, Art Unit 3656

/Thomas R. Hannon/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3656